

Application No. 10/019,624
Amendment and Response dated July 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed April 7, 2005

REMARKS

The Applicants and Applicants' attorney wish to thank the Examiner for the personal interview on Wednesday, July 6, 2005. During the interview the Howell and Giles references were discussed with respect to proposed amendments to claims 1 and 20. In the final Office Action, claims 1, 2, 11-15 and 20 were rejected, claims 1, 2 and 20 were objected to for informalities, and claims 3-10 were allowable. By this paper, independent claims 1 and 20 and dependent claims 2-5 and 7-10 have been amended. Also, new claims 21 and 22 have been added. Applicant submits that claim amendments and newly added claims do not add new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested. As a result, claims 1-15 and 20-22 are pending and should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the above-identified claims is now respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the final Office Action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by GB Patent No. 13318 to Howell et al.

Applicant submits that the Howell patent does not anticipate the limitations recited with respect to claim 1, particularly as amended. At the very least, the Howell patent fails to disclose a universal hose clamp, as articulated in claim 1, having a first locking mechanism comprising a handle assembly and a pin having a first axis, wherein the handle assembly rotates relative to the pin in the plane of the pin to move the first locking mechanism between the locked and unlocked positions. As such, the rejection to claim 1 should be removed. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 is now requested.

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In the final Office Action, claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by GB Patent No. 2,326,082 to Giles.

Giles fails to disclose the limitations recited with respect to claim 20, particularly as amended. Giles does not disclose a universal hose clamp, as articulated in claim 20, comprising a hose coupling for connecting a hose to a universal hose locating mechanism, such that with the hose coupled to the hose coupling and the first locking mechanism in the unlocked position, the hose coupling has unlimited rotational movement about an axis in a horizontal plane, as recited in claim 20. (See slot 52 of Figure 2, and ll. 20-25 pg. 10 of Giles).

New Claims

By this paper, claims 21 and 22 have been added. Claim 21 is directed at a universal hose clamping device having a first locking mechanism and a second locking mechanism. Claim 22 is directed at a universal hose clamping device that comprises a hose coupling that has unlimited rotational movement about an axis in a horizontal plane when a hose is coupled to the hose coupling and a first locking mechanism is in an unlocked position.

Objections

In the final Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 20 were objected to. Claims 1, 2 and 20 have been amended to address the Examiner's concern. As such, the objections to claims 1, 2 and 20 should now be removed. Reconsideration is requested.

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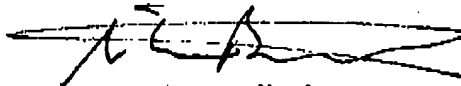
Conclusion

By this paper pending claims 1-5, 7-10 and 20 have been amended for the sake of clarity or to more clearly point out novel aspects of Applicants' invention. Claims 21 and 22 have been added. As a result, claims 1-15 and 20-22 are pending and should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified claims is now respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 12 day of July, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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